

Piper Twin Commanche, Poppa Golf that he flew with his son and frequent co-pilot, Chip; to others, he will be remembered for his contributions to the health care industry; and to his family, he will be remembered as a man devoted to his faith and a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Northwest Florida mourns the loss of a great man, and Mr. Groner's contributions and service to the community and this great nation will not be forgotten. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to honor the exemplary life of Mr. Pat Neff Groner. My wife Vicki and I offer our prayers to Louise, Jodee, Chip, and their entire family. He will be truly missed by all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON BARBER

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. BARBER. Mr. Speaker, due to my attending a congressional vigil for the victims of the shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary, I missed one recorded vote on Monday, December 17. I would like the RECORD to indicate at this point how I would have voted had I been present for this vote.

On rollcall No. 627, H.R. 4606, I would have voted "yea" to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines within the boundary of Glacier National Park in Montana.

HONORING ROBIN J. COPELAND

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robin J. Copeland, who passed away on October 30, 2011 at the young age of 46.

Robin had roots in West Texas and had a distinguished career in international diplomacy, non-proliferation, and scientific engagement. Her work with the United States Department of Energy, Department of State, the Civilian Research Development Foundation, and liaisons with U.S. Embassies worldwide was carried out under difficult and demanding conditions. Her responsibilities required skills in political science, technical science, and engineering and she was fluent in seven languages.

She was an expert in non-proliferation and contributed in significant ways to the reduction of nuclear weapons in Russia and Libya. In addition to her work on non-proliferation, she also implemented a program that trained Russian doctors with U.S. doctors in Africa to treat and care for those with HIV/AIDS.

Texas Tech University has established the Robin J. Copeland Scholarship to be awarded to undergraduates, graduate, or law students who enroll in the following academic programs of study: 1. Political Science or international law in a supporting area of science or engineering; 2. Science and engineering with auxiliary emphasis in political science or international law or; 3. Programs that demonstrate compelling evidence for application to science and international diplomacy.

Robin was a talented and unique young lady who served her nation well. She was a success in life, because she made a gift of her life.

IN HONOR OF DR. HECTOR HENRY

HON. LARRY KISSELL

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. KISSELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a true, dedicated leader in my state and in my community, Dr. Hector Henry of Concord, NC. Dr. Henry has served our nation as a Colonel in the United States military, and has served as a member of the Concord City Council for more than 20 years.

Dr. Henry proudly served our nation for decades, and came out of retirement following the attacks of September 11, 2001. He was deployed for combat in both Afghanistan and Iraq, most recently completing a 2009 deployment to Afghanistan. While deployed, Dr. Henry made every effort to videoconference in to City Council meetings, so he would not miss a minute of discussion in his hometown. Dr. Henry has served in the United States military in every conflict since the Vietnam War, a truly remarkable feat.

Still a councilman, Dr. Henry continues his service to the people of the W.G. (Bill) Hefner V.A. Medical Clinic in Salisbury, North Carolina, named in honor of our former colleague of this very chamber, Rep. Bill Hefner. Dr. Henry works as a surgeon, treating many of the veterans that call our district home, and continuing his lifelong service of helping his fellow soldier, and his community.

I'm proud to call Hector a friend and a role model. I sincerely thank Dr. Henry for his tireless devotion to making the city of Concord, and our nation, a better place.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and respect that I rise today to speak of the lifetime of public service that Dr. Hector Henry has led in our great state. I urge my colleagues to join me in commending Dr. Henry for his service, sacrifice, and ongoing commitment to this great nation.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF MARY M. JOHNSON UPON HER RETIREMENT FROM SERVICE AS SANTA ROSA COUNTY, FLORIDA CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mary M. Johnson on the occasion of her retirement from service as Santa Rosa County, Florida Clerk of Circuit Court.

Mrs. Johnson is a native Northwest Floridian who studied at Harold School and Milton High School in Santa Rosa County, Florida. In 1960, while still a student at Milton High, Mrs. Johnson was hired to work in the Clerk of Court office. After graduating from high school in 1961, Mrs. Johnson joined the clerk's office full time. While working there, Mrs. Johnson

married her husband, Tom, and together they raised their daughter, Lorinda.

Thanks to Mrs. Johnson's acumen and work ethic, she rose through the ranks and quickly became an integral part of the Santa Rosa County Clerk of Court office. Mrs. Johnson served in various capacities for three separate clerks of court, before being elected as Clerk herself in 1994.

Technology had changed many things at the clerk's office by the time Mrs. Johnson decided to run; however, Mrs. Johnson's vast knowledge of procedure and her ability to lead and manage a large staff of 125 individuals was unquestioned. The Clerk of Courts plays a vital role in county government, and it takes a truly committed and capable individual to lead the department and ensure that everything runs smoothly. For 18 years as Clerk of Circuit Court, and 52 total years in the clerk's office, Mrs. Johnson displayed the hard work, dedication and commitment to public service necessary to ensure that the Clerk of Court continued to serve the people of Santa Rosa County. All of Santa Rosa County thanks her for her tremendous service to her community. During her retirement, Mrs. Johnson hopes to spend as much time as possible with her two lovely grandchildren and to spend more time volunteering at her local church.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the United States Congress, I am privileged to recognize Mary M. Johnson for her outstanding public service to Santa Rosa County. Mrs. Johnson is a truly committed public servant and has played an integral role in Northwest Florida's community for more than 50 years. My wife Vicki and I wish her all the best in her retirement.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACK BRESCH

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK-

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am writing to honor the life of John "Jack" Edward Bresch, a long time health advocate who worked with us in Congress to improve our health care system—especially focusing on access to care for lower income children and families. Jack passed away on September 1, 2012 surrounded by family, under the care of hospice, after a brief and courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

I first got to know Jack through his work as a lead lobbyist for the Catholic Health Association. He served as a key component of CHA's government affairs team from 1983 to 2000. A highlight of his time at CHA was to work closely with then First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and her White House team to develop and promote a plan for reforming the nation's health care system. He then went on to work for the American Dental Education Association until the time of his death.

In both of these positions, Jack was a tireless advocate for improving our health care system so that everyone has access to affordable, quality health care. With the dental schools, he was especially focused on improving access to dental care for low-income children. This is a serious problem in our country that was spotlighted by the wrongful death of twelve-year old Demonte Driver of Maryland.

Demonte was on Medicaid and died after complaining of a toothache when his mother could not find a dentist who would accept Medicaid to treat him. While they tried to find a dentist, his infection spread to his brain and he tragically died. Jack didn't want any more Demonte Drivers and he worked relentlessly for improvements in Medicaid to prevent this from happening again. He first helped make some incremental improvements to the law, but was most pleased when the Affordable Care Act became the law of the land—and was upheld by the Supreme Court.

Looking forward, affordable, quality health care will finally be a reality for all American families. And, thanks in no small part to Jack's efforts, pediatric dental care is an essential health benefit that must be covered by qualified health plans.

Jack and I shared a fundamental commitment to social justice, though I must admit that the roots of our commitment developed differently. Jack began his adult life as a Catholic priest and went on to serve as a Navy Chaplain during the Vietnam War. He left the priesthood many years ago, but he never wavered from his steadfast belief in social justice. He carried that forward in his career, his life, and his relationships.

Jack was a common figure to see barge into your office, join a meeting, or run into in the hall. He always had a big smile on his face. If I had to use one word to describe Jack, it would be gregarious. He seemed larger than life and was so full of positive energy.

Jack leaves behind a loving family that includes his wife, JoAnn; his children, Mary Elizabeth, James Richard, and Jeffrey John; and 10 grandchildren who all knew how much their grandfather loved them. He also leaves behind many colleagues and friends who are grateful to his commitment to our nation's health and who will miss him dearly.

Jack's final honor will be buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery on January 24, 2013.

TRIBUTE TO TOBY L. FOOTER

HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Toby L. Footer (Meckler) who at the age of 70, passed away on Friday, Dec. 14, 2012 after a lengthy illness. She is survived by her husband Ron Footer, son Lee Footer and daughter-in-law Brenda Footer, daughter Alyson Footer, Brother Bill Meckler and sister-in-law Jeanne Van Atta, sister-in-law Sandi Brecher, granddaughter Naomi Footer and many other family and friends. Born in Cleveland, Ohio on May 2, 1942 to Lou and Naomi Meckler, Toby graduated from Ohio State University and worked as a teacher, a dietician and later as a copy editor and writer at the Dayton Jewish Chronicle. She wrote a semi-regular column, "Footnotes," that gave humorous accounts of family life and raising kids in the 1980s. For 12 years, she traveled with Ron to help with his business as a sales representative, a period of time both consider the happiest of their lives. Toby was a fantastic cook and a talented writer and craftswoman. She loved to

laugh and her greatest joy was her family, to whom she devoted her life.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Toby's memory to the Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation (PO Box 374, Birmingham, MI 48012 or www.clfoundation.org) or Foundation Fighting Blindness (P.O. Box 17279 Baltimore, MD 21297-0495 or www.blindness.org). The family wishes to thank M.D. Anderson, The Ohio State James Cancer Hospital and Gem City Home Care for their kindness and assistance.

We are all saddened by the loss of her presence in this life, but joyful that she is no longer in pain and suffering. My thoughts and prayers go to her family in this time of grief.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I mistakenly voted "no" on the Motion to Recommit on H.R. 6684, the Spending Reduction Act of 2012. I support the Motion to Recommit, which would require that, within 30 days of the enactment of the bill, the Secretary of Health and Human Services publish on the Internet information regarding raised beneficiary costs and provider cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) for each Congressional district in the United States. The Motion would also prohibit the major integrated oil companies from claiming certain tax benefits: the domestic production activities deduction, "Last-in, First-out" accounting, and the intangible drilling and development cost deduction.

AMENDING THE FEDERAL WATER POLLUTION CONTROL ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 18, 2012

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Democratic Member of the Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I rise to address S. 3687, which reauthorizes appropriations for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program for fiscal years 2012 through 2017, among other purposes.

The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program was authorized by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in the Estuaries and Clean Waters Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-456). This Act established a new program office within the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to provide administrative and technical assistance to the local management conference, convened under section 320 of the Clean Water Act, for the restoration and protection of Lake Pontchartrain, Louisiana, as well as provide Federal grant assistance for restoration projects, studies, and public education projects, recommended by the conference for the benefit of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin. The initial authorization of the

Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program was \$20 million, annually, for fiscal years 2001 through 2005. This \$20 million annual authorization was extended through fiscal year 2011 in Pub. L. 109-392.

Section 1 of S. 3687 extends the authorization of appropriations for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program through FY 2017, however, at reduced levels. S authorizes ". . . the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2009 for each of the fiscal years 2013 through 2017." According to information provided by EPA, the fiscal year 2009 appropriation for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program was \$978,000. Accordingly, section 1 of S. 3687 reduces the authorization of appropriations for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Program from \$20 million, annually, to \$978,000, annually, for each of FY 2013 through FY 2017.

In addition, section 1 of S. 3687 would establish a maximum 75 percent Federal share grant assistance authorized under the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program. Under current law, there is no statutory cap on the percentage of Federal assistance that can be provided by grants under the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Restoration Program. According to information provided by EPA, the EPA Region 6 office typically required a 5 percent local match for grants provided under this Program—resulting in a Federal share of 95 percent for grants provided under this authority. Under section 1 of S. 3687, the maximum Federal share of future grants provided under this authority would be reduced to 75 percent, with the remaining share to be provided by local interests, such as local parishes or municipalities.

I am encouraged by the House Republican Leadership's willingness to schedule this bill and allow it to pass by Unanimous Consent. I am hopeful that the Leadership's willingness to move this legislation will enable the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to move forward quickly in the 113th Congress on a Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill. Currently, there are 22 Army Corps of Engineers Chief's Reports awaiting authorization through the WRDA process. These and other critical flood control, navigation safety, shoreline protection, and environmental restoration projects must move forward to ensure the safety of our communities, strengthen our National, regional, and local economies, protect our natural resources, and create jobs.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4310, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 20, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, today I proudly endorse the passage of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) conference report. As Chairman of the Small Business Committee, over the past two years, we have held over a dozen hearings on federal procurement issues which resulted in eleven contracting reform bills being voted out of Committee with bipartisan support. At the same time that our Committee was developing